

SECTARIAN INSTITUTION

Washington and Lee a Christian School,

BUT NOT DENOMINATIONAL

Dr. Strickler in a Letter Sets Forth the Policy of the Board Giving Reason for Not Admitting Alumni to Representation.

From a Staff Correspondent.

LEXINGTON, VA., June 25.—There has been recently a great deal of discussion of the question as to whether Washington and Lee was a sectarian institution. Several writers in the Times-Dispatch have taken one view or other, and here in Lexington it is much talked over. I have learned to-day that the Board of Trustees denied the request for alumni representation on the board, for the reason that it was feared that in that way Presbyterian control of the institution might be lost. The application was dismissed at length in the session of the board a few days ago.

DR. STRICKLER'S LETTER.

Rev. Dr. G. B. Strickler, of Richmond, who is rector of the university, presented the following paper, which is thought to express the sentiment of a majority of the board, though it was not formally adopted:

"In response to the application of the alumni for representation on the Board of Trustees of this university, the board adopts the following paper:

"We very highly appreciate every expression of interest in the University on the part of the alumni, and all efforts on their part to enhance its prosperity. We profoundly regret, therefore, that we cannot see our way clear to grant their request for direct representation in our board. The consideration that controls us here is the religious policy of the institution adopted at the beginning and observed ever since. As is well known this is not a sectarian school—that is, the peculiar tenets of no religious sect are taught here, nor is it a denominational school, nor is it in the control of any church, nor has it ever been administered in the interest of any particular denomination, as its past history and present condition plainly show; but it is a Christian school and has always been, and was always intended to be, under the control of a board composed of a majority of Presbyterian Christians, representing those by whom the school was originally founded, and by whom its affairs have always been managed.

"This control we believe we have no right to surrender, and therefore, because it would be imperilled by the proposed plan of alumni representation, we are constrained with sincere regret to decline it.

THEY ARE ALUMNI.

"It should be remembered, however, that the board is not a single exception made up of alumni, and that it has always been so; and the alumni may be assured that it will always continue so, and that the affairs of the institution will continue to be administered in the same manner, broad and catholic spirit which has always marked its history in the past.

"As we have had assurances from the leaders in this alumni movement that they have no desire to change the policy of the institution, and as in the respect mentioned their plan would probably bring about that result, we trust we may anticipate their acquiescence in the conclusion which the board has reached. It is believed that this statement from Dr. Strickler will be taken as authoritative and decisive in all future discussions of the subject of Washington and Lee's sectarianism.

BOARD OF CONCILIATION

Met and Organized by Electing Mr. Connell as Chairman.

(By Associated Press.)

WILKESBARRE, Pa., June 25.—The Board of Conciliation was organized today. The board was created for the purpose of adjusting any grievances which may arise between the two churches, and was composed of William L. Connell, of Scranton, one of the operators' representatives, was chosen chairman, and Thomas D. Nicholls, president of District No. 1, United Mine Workers of America, was elected secretary of the board.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Mary Lee Page Newman.

Mrs. Mary Lee Page Newman died at Mount St. Angelo, in Amherst county, She was the wife of Dr. Walter A. Newman and the daughter of the late Leigh R. Page, and Mrs. Page.

The funeral will take place this afternoon from Holy Trinity Church. The interment will be made privately.

James Edmond Bossieux.

James Edmond, infant child of Captain Edmond and Mrs. Belle Cabell Bossieux, died at 11 o'clock yesterday morning at the residence of his parents, No. 202 North Twentieth Street.

The funeral will take place at 3 o'clock this afternoon from the residence.

William A. Burnett.

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